



(Lakshmibai College's E-Magazine)

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# REMINISCENCES OF THE LAST FIFTY YEARS

## Editorial Column

### QALAM-The E-magazine

Expression moulds thoughts into ideas and ideas engender revolutions. Institutions are the bedrock from where the catalysts of revolutions are derived. At Lakshmibai College we are engaged in revolutionizing young minds that blossom and mature into responsible individuals. The present is the product of the past but it is also the seed of the future. Keeping this in mind, we cultivate the young minds so that they master the art of excellence.

Celebrations of the Golden jubilee year brought to mind the struggles we put in as an institution. Introspection and effort seem to be the necessary stepping stones to complete the voyage to attain the goal of knowledge. This process involves sifting and sorting what is best in tradition and modernity.

The quest for knowledge is full of challenges .Innovation and learning is intricately enmeshed in the fabric of an educational institution. We cannot hope to survive and sail if we do not embrace change. However change need not be a nihilistic process. It evolves gradually just as a sculptor chisels a rock into a marvelous masterpiece. Creation is an evolutionary process and we are agents of change.

Kalam -the e-magazine is a milestone in the journey of our college. This bilingual magazine is a platform for exchange of ideas that translate into revolutions. It is the expression of ideas of minds that are engaged in this collective endeavor of our institution. It is the initiation of a dialogue that will help us achieve the goal of excellence. We perceive this as the beginning of a pursuit on the 'road not taken'.

**Dr. Sucheta Chaturvedi**

**Editor**

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# **My Experiences in College**

## **Dr. Bimla Nangia**

**(Former Principal Lakshmibai College, University of Delhi)**

This year we are celebrating Golden Jubilee of our college Lakshmibai. Heartiest congratulations to all of us who have been directly or indirectly associated with this premier and prestigious educational institution for women. I have been a member of this college community and actively participated in its activities for almost for 22 years. These years taught me that life is a celebration, so let us celebrate it with splendor and dignity, joy and pride, pomp and show, and fun and frolic.

I still vividly remember the afternoon of 30th September when I first stepped in the portal of the college as the principal of the college. I was young, energetic, ambitious and full of ideas which helped me in being optimistic and be ready to experiment and learn from my experiences. My firm belief was in the saying that 'love, peace, harmony and tranquility are the four pillars of any family or any community to progress and blossom'. College became my family and its growth and progress was my priority. With this mission I started my first day.

I noticed in few days that there were issues that required immediate attention - like construction of college boundary wall, installation of the tube well for land scaping, construction of class rooms to accommodate the increasing number of students, to procure permanent electricity connection, to get the sewer connected, to get the land lease papers in the name of the college, etc. These were the basic needs for a college. All those present today in the college can't imagine the college without boundary wall, lush green lawns and blooming flowers. The college gradually made steady progress in all these directions. There was growth and development in terms of academic excellence and infrastructure.

Due to some innovations, few changes were introduced. The committee system was expanded and strengthened for the purpose of decentralization of power, functioning and accountability. Every member of the staff was expected to be a member of at least two committees for a minimum period of two years. In certain committees students were also given representation. To encourage the students and the staff to participate in various activities of the college, 1 ½ hours time (including the lunch break) was fixed on the time table once a week on every Wednesday so that after the morning teaching periods on Wednesdays, academic and extra-curricular activities were carried on. In addition to that, new courses were started both at under-graduate and post-graduate

level. Vocational courses like Food Technology, Office Management. Secretarial Practice and Business Data Processing were added. At post-graduate level, Political science, Sanskrit and Philosophy came up on the college map. The quality of input and output of the students improved tremendously over the years. In 1973-74 students with bare 40% of marks at Higher Secondary level were admitted to the college but gradually that increased to high first class marks. The results of the college also improved. National scholarships and medals started pouring. The college also came into prominence due to facilities offered to the visually impaired students of the university by our students and teachers under the National Service Scheme (NSS). The college achieved excellence in the field of sports and National Cadet Corps (NCC). All this was possible because of the hard work and dedication of the teachers and the students.

As an outsider it took me some time to find out the problem areas but once I located them I started working on them. The main issue with non-teaching staff was the tiff between the heads of administration and the accounts branch. The differences were hindering the smooth functioning of the college. The subordinate staff was taking undue advantage of their bickering. As a result, the teachers and students were adversely affected. I tried to resolve the issue by talking to them, by explaining them separately as well as together but the dialogue failed. So I invited the subordinate staff of both the sections with their respective heads. After making some internal transfers allocated the work to each member with the consent of all present member. The work was delegated in such a manner that accountability could be fixed. In the administrative branch, one assistant each was made responsible for a batch of students right from I year till III year for the admission, their attendance, results etc. Similarly in the accounts branch, the financial matters dealing with teachers were given to one assistant and matters dealing with non-teaching staff were given to another member of the staff. The cashier was supported to deal with students. The changes not only led to smooth and efficient working of the college but motivated the staff and gave them sense of involvement and say in decision making. It brought stability and peace to considerable extent.

My stay in the college was a continuous process of learning. Everyday there was a new challenge. At times I was able to diffuse the issue, at times rules and regulations came to my rescue, at times I used the power and authority vested in the principal to solve them and at times the touch of wit and humour helped me to overcome. At times I failed. But success always comes after stumbling over failures. Success is not magic; its key is hard work and perseverance. I dedicated myself, heart and soul, to the college believing in Bhagavata Gita, expecting no award or reward.

I learnt a lot from luminaries like Mr. Bhiku Ram Jain (a humanitarian and a well known business man), Professor Nadda (Ex-Vice Chancellor of State University), General Aurora, and many others who were on the college Management Board as Chairman from time to time. They were my source of inspiration. The university representatives were guiding force for me. My work experience with them was amazingly wonderful. But I had some painful and hurting experiences as well. The problem was that with the change in government in Delhi after elections, the colour of the Management also used to change. When the majority of the members on the Governing Body were from the party in power in Delhi then the interests of the political party were given more importance than the educational interest of the college.

I also had the taste of Strikes, Dharnas and Gheraos. I remember one day the Karamchari Union of the college was shouting slogans in the evening outside my residence. They were shouting “Karamchari Union Zindabad, Principal Murdabad, Dr. Nangia Mardabad, Hai, Hai”. I came out of my residence, joined them and started shouting with them “Karamchari Union Zindabad. Principal Murdabad!”. Soon they dispersed. But that was the solution for that evening only. The problem was yet to be resolved.

On another occasion when I was gheraoed by Delhi University Students Union (DUSU) as they were demanding Lakshmibai College to be affiliated to DUSU and our Students had decided against that in General Body Meeting of the students. In fact, some of the student leaders of the college were also supporting them. I was neither allowed to come out of my office nor was anybody allowed to enter my office. Quite a number of DUSU members were in my office shouting slogans. I did not want to use police force as it would have further worsened the situation. When the Chairman of the college governing body was informed, he came to the college. He was allowed to enter my office but then the students bolted my office door from outside. The Chairman thought that he was also being gheraoed. In sheer panic he promised and assured the students that the Principal would not leave the office till the solution is found. I had to spend the night in office though the university officials wanted to rescue me. The visit of the Chairman at the time of crisis in college had a negative impact on the minds of the college community. Next morning a few teachers alongwith some students (who were not in favour of joining DUSU) forced their entry to my office. The credit goes to the teachers and the students to resolve the issue. It was decided to hold General Body Meeting of the students once again to sort out the issue.

What I could not learn in fifteen years as a teacher, I learnt that in short span of time as an administrator. I also realized that management and administration techniques, skills and tools learnt while doing courses on ‘Management of Educational System’ at Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad, National Institute of

Educational Planning and Administration in Delhi, were not enough to solve all the problems in practice. No doubt my visit to Thailand, United States of America and the United Kingdom to study various aspects of higher Education under University Administrations Project sponsored by the United States Education Foundation and British Council in India, was inspiring, energizing and rejuvenating and gave me macro as well as micro view of administration. But what was learnt was not fully applicable to Indian situation. In administration and management, we deal with human beings, their behavior, attitude and psyche. We have to devise our own methods according to time, place and situation. Furthermore, the rules and regulations are also not enough to run the institution. I am not in any way undermining the importance of rules and regulations as well as the techniques and tools learnt in administration courses but people who are working are also very important as they 'make the Institution work'. Human behavior is very complex and difficult to predict as many factors like social, economic, political, psychological and self-interest go to make human psyche. So whatever the experiences may be good or bad, sweet or bitter, pleasant or unpleasant, every experience teaches us something. Someone told me that you teachers teach the students and then take the exam but, God first provides the situation to handle it and how he/she handles it, that experience becomes the process of teaching and learning.

The following lines have to go ahead in life- "God always has something for you (us),

A key for every problem,  
A light for every shadow,  
A relief for every sorrow,  
A plan for every tomorrow."

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I might not have proved to be a perfect principal but no one in this world is perfect except God.

With a sense of pride and gratitude I thank all those who worked with me and had to bear me for a long time.

I wish the college a bright future.

## **DR. (MS.) SUNITA PURI**

**(Former Principal Lakshmibai College, University of Delhi)**

The journey from the faculty of Lady Sri Ram College, New Delhi, over 24 years, to taking over as principal of Lakshmibai College in 1996 was an important milestone in my long professional career. Lakshmibai College has a unique distinction of being named after a great Freedom Fighter, 'RANI LAKSHMI BAI', which fascinated me, with my being a historian. After taking over as the principal, it was my keen desire to have the statue of Rani Lakshmi Bai installed in the college campus and the same got accomplished in the Golden Jubilee Year of the Indian Independence in 1997.

Lakshmibai College has long been recognized as one of the premier institution for women's education in North Delhi. I am immensely privileged to have been able to play a humble role in the growth and evolution of this college. All round development of the students was my first priority and the important strength of the college. The faculty has been known for its professionalism and commitment. The college fosters a spirit of academic excellence, inspired by humanism and celebration of diversity and inclusivity. LBC culture has a rich calendar of symposia, seminar workshops, extra-curricular activities and cultural events which form an integral part of the college working ethos. Healthy debates and dialogues along with women empowerment is an important initiative to groom our young women to be the leaders of women's rights and societal perceptions.

I extend my greetings to the management, staff, and students of Lakshmibai College on the occasion of GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS. I wish that alongside academic pursuits, young students should also imbibe exemplary courage and fortitude in the true SPIRIT of legacy of RANI LAKSHMI BAI and live life fearlessly, undaunted by any circumstance in their life.

# My Journey with Lakshmibai College

## Dr. (Mrs.) Karuna Kaushik

(Former Principal Lakshmibai College, University of Delhi)



The Golden Jubilee Celebration of Lakshmibai College is indeed a glorious, momentous and historical event as it witnesses the remarkable success achieved by the College since it was established. During these decades, in academics some of our students bagged gold medals and coveted positions at the University level and they were awarded higher degrees by various international universities of repute. The vigorous and vibrant sports wing of the College made us proud by winning innumerable laurels at the national and international front. One of our cadets successfully climbed Sudershan Peak (21,500ft.) and even today the various activities of our NCC students are being acclaimed at the national level. The growth graph of our teachers has been constantly on the rise and some of them have been awarded degrees from London, Birmingham and Nottingham Universities.

Imparting education to the girl students who come from diverse backgrounds is a herculean task and our College has relentlessly endeavored by adopting various methods to produce women of substance with the strength and spunk necessary to combat various pressures. We have also left no stone unturned in our efforts to integrate the staff and the students of reserved categories and special needs into the mainstream. Our College's namesake Rani Lakshmibai (of Jhansi), a national icon of courage, valour and patriotic spirit has inspired generations of our students by her legend.

Looking back in 2015 on this grandiose occasion, one has nostalgic memories of the wonderful time spent there with some of the accomplished, selfless and genuine individuals. Teaching was my dream job and I was very happy when I joined Lakshmibai College soon after my post graduation from Miranda House, although it was not a permanent one. I was soon introduced to the nuances of the profession. It was necessary to wear a beautiful saree, make an impressive bun and carry a reasonably big purse. Strict discipline, punctuality, meticulous and timely submission of records was the norm. All the teachers were expected to participate actively in the various extra-curricular activities. The normal time for leaving college was around three in the afternoon and there was no off-day. Any deviation from these norms was strictly monitored. Usually, we saw the Principal standing at the entrance gate armed with the time-table or questioning a teacher who left her class before the bell rang. Despite the strict regimentation, we enjoyed our work and obeyed the Principal because she was also very caring, compassionate and empathetic.

The college, then known as Women's College, was situated in a school building. The tutorial rooms were separated from each other by wooden partitions. When tutorials were discussed, one often heard loud and powerful voice of other teachers but the students were adept in sifting the grain from the chaff. During exams in the evenings if there was an electricity outage the teachers would light candles on every student's table. The transport system was inadequate and one even had to walk from Timarpur to Mall road and vice-versa but amidst the scorching rays of the Delhi sun, chilly winter winds and lashing rain, the lessons of life were learnt just as *the Battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton*. As the years rolled by, the college shifted to its present building in Ashok Vihar and soon I became a permanent faculty member.

Times changed, attitudes underwent transformation and expectations increased. The challenges were many and the college endeavored to keep pace with the outside world, airing seminars, and working on various important committees like the Silver Jubilee Central Committee, Proctorial Board, Workload Committee and Academic Improvement committee. These were great experiences. The Staff Council Meeting witnessed some of the best debates on various issues with the stalwarts of the college taking time to study the rule books. The minutes were dissected minutely on the basis of merit and then approved. It gave the resemblance of a good parliament. It was splendid to work under the leadership of two outstanding Principals - Ms. C.K. Kausukutty and Dr. (Mrs.) Bimla Nangia. Both of them were highly committed to their job, had the acumen of good administration, and were also extremely good human-beings. Subsequently for a few years the college had problems. Then slowly it started recuperating under the effective leadership of talented and hardworking Officiating/Acting Principals - Dr. (Mrs.) Darshan Grover, Mrs. Meenaxi Phukan and Dr. (Mrs.) Saroj Jaggi.

In March 2003, I became Principal of the College. I loved and adored that but that was a time when there were many challenges in the college. Incidentally this was the time when exciting developments like globalization which redefined the role of higher education and made India the recruiting hub for multi-national companies were taking place. As a consequence, education at the university level was undergoing a renaissance to make students of Delhi University globally competent. This required massive changes in the academic structure which in turn was related to the overhauling of the existing infrastructure. It was at this juncture, I thought of following Greenleaf's concept of leadership as I was very much influenced by his classic essay – "*The Servant as Leader*". This point of view aimed at inverting the pyramid of power and placing the requirements at the staff and students at the top so that they could contribute for the betterment of the college. Persuasion, rather than coercion and manipulation, was adopted.

The teachers, administrative staff and students responded magnanimously and gave their best to the college. In this process, they became wiser, freer and more autonomous. They learnt to believe in themselves and took important decisions in the various committees they were functioning. All of them worked assiduously to put the college back on the rails. Peace and harmony were restored and the University of Delhi appreciated the progress made by the college.

The combined efforts of the Lakshmibai College family led to the introduction of new courses, increased momentum in the drive towards computerization, installation of oracle based accounts and students' administrative software, setting up of new laboratories, automation of the Library, face lift of various areas like seminar room, lecture theatres, class rooms, college canteen, administrative wing, staff-room, students' common room, alumni room etc. Several class rooms were constructed to keep pace with the increased number of students. The unit for students with special needs was equipped with the latest software and they were trained to take on the world. The sports ground was further developed and many new facilities were provided. The parks of the college wore a new end beautiful look due to the untiring efforts of the Garden committee. While renovating the college, the budding committee ensured that the basic problems of dilapidated roads, water shortage, continuous electricity outages and security were resolved intelligently. Strengthening of the college building, water proofing of the roofs, providing transport for the versatile students, especially the sports students, installation of Solar lights on campus and renovation of washrooms were some of the many steps taken by the College. Simultaneously the teachers worked hard to improve their academic profile by organizing seminars, attending workshops and presenting papers at various levels. Some of them received prestigious awards.

The unique contribution of the teachers and staff of this college is adequately expressed in the following words of John F Kennedy – *“Few will have the greatness to bend history itself but each one of us can work to change a small portion of events and in the total of all those acts will be written the history of this generation.”* The best part of the teachers of Lakshmibai College was that after doing all the work themselves they gave me a standing ovation in the last Staff Council. I feel truly humbled and would like to end with a very apt quote of Napoleon Bonaparte—*“Soldiers generally win battles; generals generally get credit for them.”*

Administrative work necessarily requires the support of the higher authorities and the college was lucky to have the unstinted support of the various Governing Bodies from time to time under the chairmanship of Prof. V.P. Dutt, Prof. Arjun Dev, Prof. Aparna Basu, and Prof. J.L. Jain who were persons of vision, statesmanship and great commitment. The Government of NCT of Delhi, the officials of the University of Delhi and the University Grants Commission also gave their whole-hearted co-operation.

# **One Thing at least is certain- Life flies and the rest is Lies**

**-Dr. Ritu Goel**

This reminds me of my father in his last days. My father, an educationalist of the highest order, much of my learning came from my association with him.

Today, as I sit down to do this write up for the college magazine nothing seems to hold more ground than the lines he said. It was the year 1991, when I had first set my foot in this college. Much water has flown down the river Yamuna since then. When I had joined the institution as a student, little had I know that my association with this institution would continue in the future and would eventually become my unclad and gutter in life. My existence as a part of the faculty in this college for more than a decade now has not only been self-sustaining but also very educating. Even as I stand on the other side of the statue, I continue to be a learner.

As a student, I often questioned the relevance of the contents of my subject in real life. I would often tell myself that my subject has no applicability in real life situations.

Today, I am amused when I find most of my students thinking on the similar line. But today I have found my answer. I understand now the purpose of the high education. And that's why my very first interaction with every batch centers on the objectives of higher education. I tell them to find answer to the question, why they are here; what do they want to make of their stay here? I make them believe that these years of their college life would open up their minds and give them not just degrees but certain perspectives in life. Even when formal education continues to be in reading of texts, learning goes beyond textbooks. "Don't let schooling interfere with your education", so said Mark Twain.

In social sciences we emphasize that a text is to be understood in its context. I suggest my students to apply this principle in real life. The opinions people hold, their views, their behavior, their reaction to situations have all to be understood in the light of their background, their surroundings. "Look beyond", tells the protagonist who is a teacher of history of art to her students in a Hollywood movie. In order to appreciate a certain work of art, it is important to know the state of mind of the artist, enabling us to understand better. This would help us to be tolerant of other people's views. This would help us in reaching the goal of highest education which is to make better citizens out of us, eventually leading to the building of a just society.

In the whole process of evaluation, our family plays the most important role. As they say, "the first education of child begins at home". I was blessed to have the most supportive parents who gave me wings to fly, gave me

freedom to choose, to dream and who stood by me all the times. My father's belief in his daughter was amazing. Thank you papa! Today I have the liability to live my dream...And I continue to move.



# **Bhuli Bisri Yaadein**

## **Saroj Gulati**

“*Koi lauta de mere bite hue din.*” These words take me back to the year 1974, the year I joined Lakshmibai College as a Lecturer in History. I had the privilege to join a college which was named after a patriot, a very important historical figure and a brave woman who fought against the British Raj. I worked in this college till 2008 when I was asked to take up the duties and responsibilities of a Principal at Aditi Mahavidhyalaya, Delhi University. I got and learnt a lot from both the colleges. When I go back in my memory lane, I am reminded of the first thing I was told by one of my teachers, “See to it that you workhard and prove an asset to the college. The college should feel proud of you.” These words are still ringing in my ears. After all these years if anybody, new recruit asks for any advice, I tell him or her same with additions- to be punctual and regular which I tried to adhere to throughout my career. I always told my students that it is better to be half an hour early to your work than being late even by five minutes.

The unfortunate part is that once after lecturing my students about punctuality, the very next day I reached the college a bit late because I was stuck up in the traffic jam due to one rally or the other. Those who followed the Ring Road would remember that during 70s and 80s there used to be rallies near Red Fort. The impact of the lecture on punctuality was such that one of my students started coming to college by auto spending about Rs. 15 a day. It was not easy for her to spend that much money and during those days Rs. 15 also meant a lot. It was after third or fourth day that she told me about this. I appreciated her intentions to be punctual but asked her not to spend parents’ hard earned money like this. She was still punctual but now she was coming to college by availing DTC facility.

Like any other new recruits, I also had some dreams, some innovative ideas, some ambitions and some passions. I had been a social worker since my school days. As a college student I was a member of college Social Service League. These activities and interests helped me in starting N.S.S. (National Social Service) unit in Lakshmibai College. I happened to be the first Programme Officer of the unit. Under this unit we had started a ‘*Masala Centre*’ where women from the neighbouring village Srinagar used to come to our college and grind *masalas* which was sold to the staff and students of the college. The purity of the *masalas* was guaranteed. This helped in generating income for those women and little financial help to their families.

All of us were concerned with the safety of women. In 1970s too the situation was not that bright for women. There was a dense jungle just opposite to our college where you see a beautiful park now. Obviously we were

careful about security and safety of our students. I still remember once when I boarded the college special bus from my college to Maurice Nagar some boys also got in that bus and started teasing our students. I was sitting in the front. Suddenly I heard some commotion. I looked back and found my students standing in a corner and trying to save themselves. I left my books and bag with my colleague and went back and tried to bring my girls in the front. The very next day, first thing I did was to go to the Principal and request her to start ladies special from our college so that such unpleasant incidents are not repeated. Our Principal Dr. Bimla Nangia was very helpful. She asked me to write a letter with regard to this which could be forwarded to DTC authorities. It's very hard to believe but yes, that was what happened. Within a week's time we had ladies specials starting from our college.

There was something else also very important attached to the security of the girls and that is Self-Defence. There is a saying 'God helps those who help themselves'. The girls had to be strong enough to save themselves from any kind of eventuality and for which they had to be self dependent. I, as a convener of Women Development Centre, organised Self Defence Camp with the help of Police Personnels from Ashok Vihar Police Station. It was a successful and remarkable camp. At the end of the camp the students were awarded certificates as well.

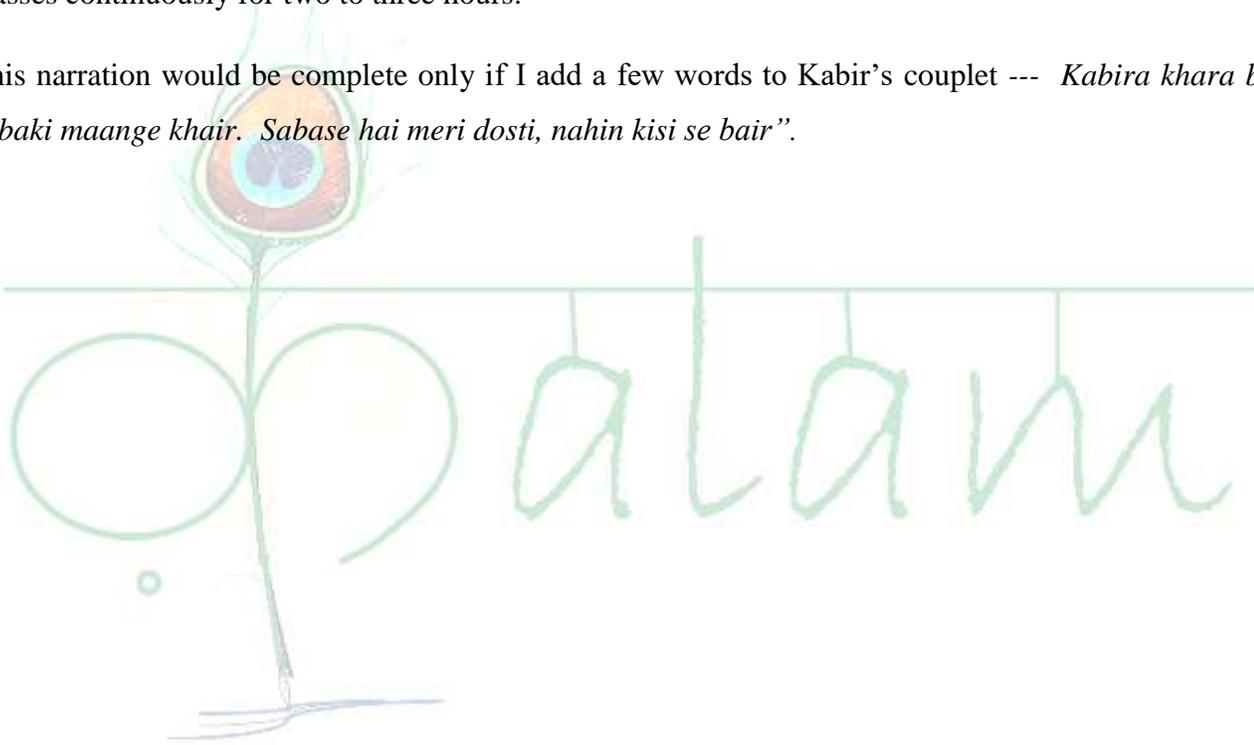
We had a very strong Hindi Dramatic Society. I happened to be a member, coordinator and then the convener. The plays performed by our students for the public at Shri Ram Centre or Pyare Lal Bhavan or National School of Drama or Shri Ram College of Commerce were a grand success and appreciated by one and all. Veena Bhatia and I, learnt a lot from Sadhana Bhatnagar regarding dramatics who herself was a great actor and director. This helped me when I took over as the convener of Hindi Dramatics. I miss those days when I used to write, direct and select the plays to be performed every year for 15<sup>th</sup> August, 26<sup>th</sup> January or College Annual Day celebrations. There used to be inter class and Inter College Drama competitions and Street Plays.

I don't think I can ever forget college Sports Day. I used to love to be a commentator and announcer on that day. I know for certain that staff, students and the guests liked the way I made the announcements along with my friends. I remember someone saying, '*sports day mein jaan daal deti hain aap.*' I don't know whether she meant it or not but that made me happy. I used to tell Sunita Arora, our sports teacher, a colleague and a friend, that even after leaving this world I would definitely make announcements from wherever I am. Sunita was very sweet. She said, "*No problem Saroj Ma'm. I will send the mic up there. It would be easier and help you in making the announcements from there.*" I miss those days but that's life. Throw Ball Match between Teachers and Third year students of the college was another event which we enjoyed thoroughly. The best part was whenever we, the teachers, won the match we had to get 5 star chocolate bars for the students against whom we played the match. Giving chocolate bars to our students made us happier than winning the match. We loved our

students. The kind of respect and love we got from them was unique. This love for our students made me start Chinese language classes in our college. Those were the days when Chinese, Japanese and Korean languages were very popular and many job opportunities were opened for people who knew these languages. It was our Principal Dr. Karuna Kaushik who encouraged me and rendered all the assistance I needed to accomplish this initiative. We got help from the faculty members of the Department of South East Asian Studies, Delhi University and the girls who passed Certificate Examination could get admission in the Diploma Course of Delhi University.

There are so many incidents to narrate but one has to put a stop somewhere. At the end I can say that one can't forget tea prepared by Santosh Kumari. She would always remember who takes tea with sugar and how many spoons of sugar and those who have tea without sugar. A hot cup of tea used to be such a welcome after taking classes continuously for two to three hours.

This narration would be complete only if I add a few words to Kabir's couplet --- *Kabira khara bazaar mein, sabaki maange khair. Sabase hai meri dosti, nahin kisi se bair*".



# **My journey at Lakshmibai College and the growth of Home Science Department**

## **Dr Anita Malhotra, Associate Professor**

### **Department of Home Science (Food Technology)**

It was in the year 1984 that I joined the Department of Food Technology as its sole member. Setting up a new department was a challenging task and I was determined to work hard for its smooth launch. Dr Bimla Nangia, the Principal at that time took personal interest in the process. University of Delhi provided special funds and soon a spacious Food Technology laboratory was inaugurated. Given the nature of the field, practical training forms an integral part of the curriculum and the laboratory has played a crucial role in imparting hands-on skills to the students. The course has been popular among the students right from its inception.

### **The Silver Jubilee Year**

1989, the twenty fifth year of Lakshmibai College is a notable mile stone in the history of the department. Not only did my services get regularized, the young department also made a mark by successfully organising a two-day workshop on 'Recent Trends in Food Technology'. I am imbued with nostalgia when I remember the eventful Silver Jubilee Year celebrations under the able leadership of the Principal and the conveners Dr Shashi Raina and Dr Sheila Rani. The immense motivation and support I got from them as well as the confidence with which they delegated the responsibility to me paved a path for my future journey in the institute.

### **Learning from the senior faculty**

As the Department of Food Technology was gradually carving a niche of its own, I remained fully occupied in teaching for many years. Till mid 90s, I was a junior among the teaching staff. Senior members were great mentors to me and my contemporaries, especially because of their democratic and conducive work ethics. They led the major committees of the college and steered it on its path of development. In 1998, I took up the role of staff representative in the Governing Body and around that time, I started working on my research proposal for pursuing a doctorate.

### **Period of growth**

When I joined the college in 2003 after completing my doctoral work, many of the senior faculty members had superannuated and the college had several younger members. This was the beginning of a new phase for me as I was entrusted with bigger roles and responsibilities by the Principal Dr Karuna Kaushik. I got the opportunity to grow by heading major committees of the college. I was a part of the Vision Committee which drafted a vision document for the development of college. During my tenure as one of the conveners of Women Development Centre (2004-06), we organized the first UGC-sponsored two-day national seminar titled 'Representation of Women in Media' that was inaugurated by renowned Bharatnatyam dancer Ms Geeta Chandran. Later we held a workshop on 'Life skills' conducted by Dr Patanjali Dev Nayar, consultant at World Health Organization, a panel discussion on women's safety and screened two women centric films each followed by a facilitated discussion. When BA programme was introduced in 2005, I got the opportunity to organize a one-day workshop on 'New Syllabus of Food Technology' in which all teachers teaching the subject at various colleges of university participated enthusiastically. I played an important role in forming the Consumer Rights Awareness Forum and organizing a workshop and festival on consumer related issues with funding from Indian Institute of Public Administration (2005-06). In the subsequent years, I assumed the responsibility of organizing the technical sessions at the first Career Mela held in college in collaboration with Urvi Vikram Charitable Trust.

In 2010, when I took up Medical Committee, the first task we accomplished was to get a qualified, trained and registered nurse in place. In the subsequent years, we organized the first-ever Health Mela of the college in collaboration with Medanta- the Medicity Hospital and the response of students, faculty and underprivileged individuals at the mela was stupendous with nearly 900 of them benefiting from the free medical tests, consultations and medicines.

My two stints in the Academic improvement Committee (2008-10 and 2013-15) coincided with the launch of OBC Expansion scheme as well as introduction and rolling back of Four Year University Programme. This experience taught me ways to find solutions to difficult and unforeseen problems. Being an advisor to Students' Union (2011-13) and also a member of the Building Committee (2010-12) also provided me a great learning experience. It was during this ten-year period that I started looking beyond the boundaries of my department and visualizing growth of the college in a larger context.

These were also the years for my academic growth as I got more involved in research, in attending conferences, in presenting papers at national and international level and in writing research papers, books, chapters, proceedings of seminars and articles. Receiving international trainings in Nutrition research methods, Monitoring and evaluation of nutrition programmes, Adolescent health and Obesity management further

widened my horizon. During the process, many honours and important positions came my way and I took up bigger tasks for the welfare of society particularly the underprivileged.

My research outlook also underwent a change during the three decades of interaction with the college faculty which is from diverse disciplines of commerce and humanities. The exchange of ideas opened windows for viewing nutritional problems from different perspectives. In 2014, I joined hands with faculty from commerce and economics to initiate a multidisciplinary Innovation Project titled 'Understanding the potential determinants of obesity among school going adolescents in Delhi' funded by University of Delhi. The project was completed successfully in 2015 and the results were presented by the team of teachers and students at the cultural festival Antardhwani organized by University of Delhi as well as at a seminar held at the college.

### **The multi-faceted Department of Home Science**

The department expanded in 2006 when a new course in Apparel Design and Construction was introduced and a new state-of-art airconditioned laboratory was built under my guidance to cater to the needs of students. The construction of Apparel Design and Construction laboratory was one of the first projects of building committee which laudably transformed the infrastructure of the college in a decade's time. Dr Sabrina Sareen joined me as a permanent faculty in the year 2009; subsequently, the two courses were brought under the Department of Home Science along with an application course in Nutrition and Health. There was further expansion of the department when the number of seats increased and so did the sanctioned faculty strength under the OBC expansion scheme.

From its baby steps, the department has grown into a well established Department of Home Science in the college and has two state-of-art and well-equipped laboratories for Food Technology and Apparel Design and Construction along with a permanent laboratory attendant Ms Geeta Singh in place. The courses offered by the department are interdisciplinary in nature and aim at professional skill development so that students find work opportunities in food and garment industry and testing. The two courses are much sought after due to their professional orientation and training to be entrepreneurs. Lakshmibai College is the only college in north campus of University of Delhi, which offers two discipline courses of Home Science namely Food Technology and Apparel Design and Construction.

Today, the department is actively involved in organizing national seminars, symposia, workshops and lectures related to food and apparel. As extension activity, the department reaches out to students and faculty by creating awareness about nutrition and life style messages through National Nutrition Celebration, Food and Nutrition

Festival and Healthy Recipe Competition held every year. The department also arranges Food and Craft Mela inviting craftsmen and President Awardee master craftsmen to showcase their products and teach embroidery skills to students. This promotes and encourages the preservation of traditional Indian textile craft forms as well as regional cuisines.

The Food Technology students engage in New Product Development as their project work and develop innovative bakery products as well as value-added preserved products; thereafter, all products undergo sensory evaluation on a Hedonic scale. To encourage creativity amongst the students, various activities like Saree draping competition and Fashion show are organized every year, where the Apparel Design students show their creativity in draping sarees in innovative ways and showcasing the designs created by students. Both the streams of the Department of Home Science showcase their products through an exhibition held every year on College Day. Lately, the students have also standardized recipes for hot cooked meals to be served under the Mid-day Meal programme of Directorate of Education (2014) and Integrated Child Development services scheme of Department of Women and Child Development (2015), Delhi Government. The prepared samples were sent to Sriram Institute of Industrial Research for proximate analysis of macronutrients.

The students have done well in academics and have participated in inter-college and state-level events winning certificates of appreciation and prizes. At the college level, students have bagged Miss Kausukutty and Dr Kaushik All Round Best Student award (2010) and BA programme Overall Topper award (2007 and 2009). At state level, they have won first and third prize for slogan writing (2014) as well as first and third prize for the recipe contest (2015) at the Dietetics Day organized by Indian Dietetics Association.

### **The Golden Jubilee year**

The Department of Home Science has been very active and visible during the Golden jubilee year of the college. It organized a UGC-sponsored national seminar on 'Food and Textile industry- Emerging Trends and Perspectives' where Padmashri Dr V Prakash and Dr Gulrajani presided as the chief guests while Head of the Home Science Department Dr Anupa Siddhu and Treasurer of Governing Body Prof Jaya Tyagi were the guests of honour. 20 invited speakers delivered scientific talks, 17 free oral and 13 poster presentations were made and the proceedings were duly published and released on the occasion. Invited guests and speakers lauded the efforts of the growing department in the huge success of the seminar. The department also steered the Food and Craft Mela – a first time interdisciplinary mega event organized in the college in collaboration with the departments of Music and Punjabi. The display of healthy recipes and regional saree drapes by students, exhibition-cum sale

by craftsmen and lip-smacking street food in the backdrop of regional music and dance promoted Indian heritage wrapped in entertainment.

### **The future**

The college is soon going to complete 50 years and at present the mean age of its faculty is much lower than what I have ever witnessed here. There is tremendous potential in our young members and they are taking bigger responsibilities at a younger age. At this juncture, the Department of Home Science has completed three decades of its existence in the college and is raring to surge ahead and achieve greater heights in future. It is a proud moment for me to be a part of this journey and I am committed to work hard for my department in the larger interest of my institute. I have spent three decades here learning and maturing and now the time is to give back to the institute which has shaped my life in manner that I feel indebted.

The journey continues....



# Journey from Silver Jubilee to Golden Jubilee of Lakshmibai College

## Lt. (Dr.) Seema Sharma (Kaushik)

1989 was the year when I first entered the premises of Lakshmibai College making it through cut-off in the second merit list to get admission in B.Com. (Pass) I year. And from there my new journey began like Lakshmibai who was the epitome of bravery and courage.

I still remember my teachers Dr. Bimla Nangia (Principal), *Mrs. Madhulika Saran* (guided me to take admission in this college at first instance), *Ms. Vanita Aggarwal* (admitted me to this college), *Dr. Alka Harneja*, *Dr. Lata Sharma*, *Dr. Poornima Talwar*, *Dr. Raj Nangia* and *Dr. Anita Goel* (who taught me various subjects during B.Com.); and the non-teaching staff including Mr. Sushil Kumar, Mr. Premkant, Mr. Shailender and Mr. Ravinder who were dealing the with students that time).

As my entrance was marked with the Silver Jubilee year, lots of events were organized by the much active college Union. Those were the proud moments of winning Fancy Dress Competition, performing in a Play named Saleem Anarkali in *Vividha*. I was also fortunate to be named as the Best All Rounder Student of the year 1991 and also got 2<sup>nd</sup> position in Inter College Mono-Acting held at PGDAV College.

Interest in sports took me to talk to *Mrs. Aruna Jacob*, Reader in the department of physical education and sports, who was a real source of inspiration and motivation. With her encouraging words, I started learning Judo under the guidance of Coach Mr. Bhim Singh, expert in transforming beginners to champions. With little or you can say no background of playing sports in school and weighing just 37 kg., this training helped me in winning the Best Judo Player award in Delhi State Judo Championship in 1991. During that span (1989-1992), I could win a bronze in All India Judo Championship, won six medals in State/ State level Championships, stood 2<sup>nd</sup> in Inter College (won the team championship) and got 10 medals in different inter-class competitions. Despite only four games in the college (Judo, Kabaddi, Kho-Kho and Volleyball), our college Judo team won almost all Championships during that span. Two of our seniors Kuldeep Kaur and Shashi Prabha Malik won the gold medals in All India Inter University Judo and were selected for India Camp.

And yes, how can I forget *Dr. Sunita Arora*, who became my teacher in 1991 and has the capability of accomplishing any task. She has such a boundless energy and enthusiasm that is incomparable and makes her unique. The association developed with Sunita mam in 1991 brought me back to this college as a teacher in

2001. What an awesome feeling it was..... to join Lakshmibai College as a permanent faculty in 2002.... great thanks to Sunita Mam for bringing me here.

I have kept the spirits of Lakshmibai alive by continuously and progressively growing. From post graduation, JRF-NET, serving Directorate of Education as P.E.T., Ph.D., co-author of professional books, winning International Research Scholarship, I became international athlete in Masters Category (35 age group). Since then I represented India in 2 World Championships held at USA (2011) and Brazil (2013), won medals in all the 3 Asian Meets held at Malaysia (2010), Chinese Taipei (2012) and Japan (2014), Malaysian Open Athletics Meet (2014) and National meets.

### **From then to Now**

The grounds that had long grass and looking for maintenance, are now considered best-maintained in the University. We have developed a Shooting Range, procured pistol and rifle, constructed basketball court and developed a gym from CWG legacy grant, partitioned Judo Room, Changing Room, T.T. room, other equipments required to maintain sports ground and cricket pitches and daily wage labours to maintain ground.

Our college which had only four teams when I was student, now has 25 teams including Archery, Athletics, Boxing, Baseball, Basketball, Chess, Cricket, Cross Country, Fencing, Gymnastics, Handball, Judo, Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Netball, Power-lifting, Shooting (Rifle & Pistol), Softball, Taekwondo, Table Tennis, Volleyball, Wrestling, Weight-lifting and Yoga.

From winning few championships and medals, we have reached among top two best performer colleges in women sports in the University of Delhi and now the college is recognized by its Sports. Our students have become the part of Indian teams in many sports at international level and performing extremely well at state, inter college, inter-university and national sports competitions.

I also had the experience of working with different principals including *Ms. Meenaxi Phukan*, *Dr. Karuna Kaushik* and *Dr. Veena Gautam*. I have worked with many committees of the college including Computers, Purchase, Building, Prospectus, Website, Examination, Governing Body and have always learnt a lot and contributed as well. With the advice of Dr. Karuna Kaushik, I took up the NCC activities of the college after retirement of *Mrs. Vijay Tondon* and got commissioned as Lieutenant in 2009. Since then, our NCC wing has continuously scaling new height. Our cadets has reached up to Rajpath for RDC, attending various camps including Thal Sainik (TSC), National Integration (NIC), Combined Annual Training (CATC), Para Jumping, Para Sailing, Para Slithering, Firing, Army Attachment, Officers Training, Personality Development etc., became

the best contingent in DU in Drill at Antardhwani-2015 and bringing laurels in almost all the competitions wherever they go. One of our cadets, Lt. Juhi Sharma has joined the Indian Army through NCC special entry scheme.

To sum up, I would say that this college provides an opportunity to young girls to excel, to be self-reliant and exemplary in the field wherever they go. It's an honour to be a part of Golden Jubilee Celebrations of our college and sharing my experiences with you all.

*I am proud to be a student as well as teacher of my college..... I will always try to live with your true spirits..... Thank you Lakshmibai..!!*



# MY REMINISCENCES

## Poornima Talwar

Golden Jubilee is an important landmark in the history of any institution. The moment provides an appropriate occasion to look at the Institution today and to reflect and recall its past from the chiaroscuro of memory. It is also the time to recall some of its glories and identify its challenges. It is both my proud privilege and deep pleasure to be a part of this momentous occasion on the completion of fifty long years of this esteemed institution, which boasts of a long sweet smelling and illustrious past. The souvenir does not only aim at tracing the development of this Institution in its normative and institutional aspects in the last half century but is also an endeavor to bring to focus our stout resolves to keep pace with the fast changing world.

I started my teaching career at Shri Ram College of Commerce and subsequently joined Lakshmibai College as a permanent faculty member in 1986 and that was like reaching my final destination. Never a thought of going anywhere else passed through my mind. Today more than 31 years have passed. All of them have been enjoyable and eventful. In the interval, a lot has happened. I feel nostalgic with just a peep into the past. I have fond memories of the moments I have worked here. As a beginner, I re-call that the seniors were always helpful, generous and very hospitable. They were always kind and caring and their words of encouragement brought the best out of me. Though many of them have superannuated, the fragrance of their elderly guidance is still as fresh as ever.

Despite diversity of thoughts, there was always unimpeachable unity amongst the fraternity. Pains were always shared, smiles were always enjoyed. Lakshmibai College is not only my karambhoomi but also my spiritual workshop for my professional growth in particular and social growth in general. The atmosphere in the staffroom has been instrumental in the transformation of my weaknesses into strengths and in acquiring greater self-confidence.

Being an ardent lover of sports, I had great love for sports like throw ball and tug of war which I enjoyed playing with the final-year students. Besides playing musical chairs, my participation in the races on the sports day and an occasional win are memorable events. My teaching experience also remained very satisfying with more and more career conscious and intelligent students seeking education in the College. I am a firm believer in the philosophy that the 'Result of sweat is always sweet'. I opted for the teaching profession by choice with the object to contribute to good education and not to pull anyone down.

I believe that it is not bricks and mortar that make a good institution. It is the men who man it. However, while lauding the achievements, one cannot ignore the warning signals concerning the object of the Institution. There cannot be any better time than the Golden Jubilee celebrations to give serious thoughts to the shortcomings. I wish all the success to the College so that it may grow at a much faster pace. I will always feel indebted to my Institution for giving me what I could not have acquired anywhere else. I wish that the College earns a name for itself to be reckoned with amongst the educational big-wigs not only in the capital of the country but also in the entire country as well.



# **Recollection of Days at Lakshmibai College**

**Dr. Chandra Nisha Singh**

**Head, Lakshmibai College**

Time inevitably produces history, constantly and indelibly etching itself both among its active and passive makers. The fifty long years of Lakshmibai College have their own claim to a macrocosmic history just as they have to thousands and thousands of little individual histories that have been written within its physical and intellectual portals.

From Women's College to Lakshmibai College and from the back lanes of Timarpur to the green and lush open spaces of Ashok Vihar, the journey has been slow but steady, may be not like the heady dash of the proverbial Rabbit, but more like the enduring and persisting pace of the Tortoise which manages to reach the victory line with its sheer determination. Providing with authentic certification of higher education to many generations of young women and hence, immense possibilities for role playing in a new emerging modern India, Lakshmibai College has surely made ample contribution in nation building, especially as it has been able to reach out to innumerable young women from urban, semi-urban, lower and middle segments of society in social and economic terms. Looking back, I can perceive our own role as teachers, mentors, sisters and sharers in contributing to the making of accomplished women: good housewives and companions to the presently, modern, independent, career oriented, self respecting and identity seeking women, asking for their own space in the scheme of things.

My own 44 year long association with the Institution is only 6 years short of a personal golden jubilee. Yes, I missed the founding of the College by 3 years and hence, could not get the place of honour with the doyens who lent their values, personality and character.

In 1968, at 21 and fresh with a post graduate degree when I was first introduced into a B. A. (P) classroom of 60 odd young girls in the Timarpur building of Women's College (College's original name), I myself experienced the first fresh breath of independence, authority and social space. I was a teacher with hold over hundreds of students and with a sudden reversal of roles, the fears and anxieties of my student days were gone forever.

Timarpur College, way in from the main Mall Road and with very poor accessibility was in a yellow two storey building with enormous boundary walls, a central large courtyard for large assemblies and rows of rooms and

corridors on three sides. Our tutorials were held in one or two large rooms that were cubicled into roughly 8x8 enclosures where everyone could hear everyone else. There were two staff rooms; chairs were set wall to wall all around and two rows in the middle provided a necessary break and partition. We were young like our own students. Friendships flourished within departments and sometimes across with some departments having unexplained bonding. Many of the departments came on the scene later, e.g. commerce, F.T. and O.M., and some sadly went out, like Bengali.

When the College shifted to the new premises at Ashok Vihar, I was away on extraordinary leave for two years. On my return, I found myself a little out of place having missed on the diverse transitions that had impacted the administration and the principal and had ripple effect on the ethos of the College. On personal front, new friendships had been forged; the departments had expanded, the student strength had increased, the building was larger, spacious and befitting though yet wanting in many ways.

With time, I too discovered for myself bigger roles, developed friendships, sought recognition and settled myself. The 70s and the 80s were the days of large scale proliferation of families, growing up of children, their education and their careers. We were women within a very very womanish world of traditional assigned roles and were somewhat insulated from the ever growing and challenging outside world. In the newly constituted Women's Development Centre, our participations exposed our mishmash thinking, but we could not spell out any kind of radical or liberal discourse.

I think my colleagues would agree that in retrospect there is a sea change in the personality of students who join the college today. They were then shy and inhibited, resigned and unresisting and with vague and undefined aspirations. Today the reach, language and the aspirations have changed and the average college student is far more confident, gender conscious, bold and assertive. The atmosphere and the student teacher relationship have also undergone a tremendous change.

From the mid 90s, the Institution became a stage for noticeable dramatic enactments. The various teachers' movements had already set in a new awareness and the teachers, with their different political allegiances, had started taking defined positions. Their participation in the running of the College had increased. Perhaps as a result of all that, the 90s necessitated large scale overhauling in the administration. For me personally, it was a period of major transformation and also recognition of a will and potential to act.

By now, a whole lot of teachers have retired from the College: many are no more, but our memories are attached with us like our better halves. Like life, the College has moved on with a new set of people and new aspirations. The students are spread out all over; often one would come across them in some walk of life.

As I recall and sum up, Lakshmibai College always remained in the middle line. We were creating and constructing brick by brick; we were improving in number as well as in the entry point cut offs, we had our share of recognition and moments of pride too. But perhaps there always was an itch for something more.

On this landmark occasion, we formally hand over the legacy to those who will carry the baton even higher and hopefully create new benchmarks of name and excellence under the Head “**Lakshmibai College, University of Delhi.**”



# **DOWN MEMORY LANE**

**Meenaxi Phukan**

**Department Of History, Lakshmibai College**



It was only yesterday; when fresh from Lucknow University, I joined this college, a government college for women, then known as Women's College Timarpur, as a lecturer. Belonging to a small provincial town of Lucknow, closely protected by strict family norms, the exciting world of Delhi was a thrilling adventure. Now when I look back I realize how naive I was. Life is full of ups and downs and I learnt to take it as it comes.

We were just about 34 lecturers or so (the founding members) when we joined this college at Timarpur. It was a government school building with minimal facilities. The walk to college from Mall Road was down a dusty, dirty road full of pot holes. In the rainy season, I dread to remember, there were very few buses, which came hourly. So if you missed it, you would have to wait till the next one came which were usually laden with rustic passengers carrying their wares, depending upon the time of the day and the season, from milk cans to products for the local market. We survived and forgot because we were young.

We were all very close, sharing our lunches and our lives with our colleagues who were also our friends. We forged strong bonds during this time. For me, college was my life as most of my time I spent commuting back and forth to it. Students fifty years ago were very different to the students today. A BA Degree was a must usually for a good match.

The temporary college building did not have sufficient rooms for lectures and tutorials. So lecture classes had more than sixty students with barely seating facilities. Electricity break downs were frequent. We did have a canteen whose bread pakoras and samosas we enjoyed!! Due to lack of space, tutorials were held in cubicles separated by wooden partitions. So whoever had the loudest voice won the day!! There was a cacophony of sounds, a veritable sound of Babel, with Alexander rubbing shoulders with Tulsi Das, Karl Marx and Shakespeare.

As there was no music department, I along with some of my other colleagues taught songs to students for different functions. Some of my colleagues taught them folk dancing. Often we would dance and sing with our

students on stage, and few could tell as we looked like students ourselves. It was fun. We were full of joie de vivre.

Our first principal Miss CK Kausukutty was a loving but a strict, god fearing and a compassionate matriarch, who kept all of us young teachers in check. No letting hair down, only buns and only saris to college. It was an act of defiance plus convenience (because our buns had a precarious journey on the crowded bus, landing from the back of our heads to our laps), when I cut my hair short. I was expecting a terrible scolding but she looked just looked very upset and said, “But you had such beautiful long hair?” After that many of my other colleagues had their hair cut short.

With the addition of Second year, then Third year, and later Honours Courses, the number of teachers in various faculties increased. We still had unity and affection for each other. Friendships were not confined to one’s own department, and apart from my own department, I had good friend from amongst the English and Economics department as well. Despite marriages and additions in the family, affection and concern for each other remained.

When we shifted from Timarpur to our own building in Ashok Vihar where we are currently placed, our college came to be known as Lakshmibai College. Our new principal, Dr. B Nangia took up the challenge of running our college successfully. Our college began to do well academically, as well in extracurricular activities and sports.

After Dr. Nangia, with the appointment of a new principal, there was a time of administrative troubles. A deep chasm cut through our strong bonds, separating a few of our good friends from us. Forty years of our friendship, trust and affection just went down the drain. Suspicion and distrust filled the air with their noxious fumes.

During this period of administrative crisis, Dr, Darshan Grover, who was officiating Principal, worked hard at restoring financial order. During the same period of crisis, I was appointed Vice Principal and then Acting Principal after Dr. Grover. It was a very difficult time as I had to be impartial despite the hydra headed problems. Those thirteen months of principal-ship taught me a lot about all aspects of running a college. Team work was the secret of all success.

I loved my college so whatever I did was an act of love, performed to the very best of my ability. Among the many problems were the settlements of medical bills, piling since the administrative crisis. I remember getting up at four in the morning to clear the bills, stating which rule was applicable to which, what page and on what basis. The new register of medical bills had all the relevant information in it, and could be checked by anyone.

Promotions of both teaching and non teaching staff had been due for a long time. They were all cleared. College was in a terrible state. The roofs through which the girders caved in were photographed and submitted to UGC, who promptly sanctioned a huge amount for the same. Computerisation of the college took place during my time despite the initial hesitation of the office staff. Attempts to start a society for students of North East succeeded.

The Department of History, Delhi University gave me leave to write my book, “The Rise O Modern West”, which is now a prescribed text book for History Hons II year in DU.

Dr Karuna Kaushik efficiently took over the college principal-ship once order was restored.

Last but not the least, I think of all those students without whom I would not be here, and whose lives passed through our hands. I miss interacting with them. I hope that they remember me with as much warmth as I do them.



# My experience at Lakshmibai College

**Shruti Kapoor**

## **B.Com (Batch 2011-2014)**

Lakshmibai College, where I had spent 3 golden years of my life, gave me various platforms to outshine my talents and hidden capabilities by enhancing my “can-do” spirit. I was given the position of *Class Representative* for entire 3 years of college which engrossed in me willpower to do better and better with each passing day. My continuous efforts and dedication portrayed an amiable image at academics as well as socially. The college bestowed me with a prestigious honor of being the *Secretary of Commerce Society* in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year, and *The President of the Commerce Society* in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year which not only boosted me to be work-friendly but also shouldered me with several responsibilities such as organizing various seminars, college festivals, managing funds and other activities of the society. The biggest achievement in this course was, when I got the golden opportunity to head the editorial of our first Commerce Society magazine launched in 2012, "Comscript". From accumulating the matter to be published till editing, designing and getting it printed, a fair amount of work was done by me. It was a valuable experience of my life. I also got various opportunities to acquaint with various famous personalities as well as earning various prizes in the same course.

All such experiences gained during my productive time at college made me realize that I could never be who I am today without the blessings and guidance of all my respected teachers and staff who were just like a family to me for whom I think myself to be lucky and full of gratitude.

## सम्पादकीय

डॉ. पूनम ( हिन्दी विभाग )

लक्ष्मीबाई कॉलेज की ई मैगजीन 'कलम' रामधारी सिंह दिनकर की पंक्ति 'दो में से तुम्हें क्या चाहिए 'कलम या कि तलवार' को चरितार्थ करती है। वास्तव में कलम में वो ताकत होती है, जो जनमानस को चैतन्यता प्रदान करती है, क्रांति ला देती है, समाज और राष्ट्र का कायाकल्प कर देती है और वह कलम जब पत्रिका के रूप में प्रस्तुत हो तो अनायास ही जागृति की प्रेरणा देती हुई दिखाई देती है। कलम की इसी ताकत के कारण बंकिमचन्द्र चट्टोपाध्याय के 'वन्देमातरम्' की गूँज पूरे भारतवर्ष में सुनाई दी। छात्राओं के ई मैगजीन 'कलम' को इस रूप में देखकर उम्मीद की एक ज्योति प्रज्वलित हुई। लक्ष्मीबाई कॉलेज की स्वर्ण जयंती के अवसर पर प्रधानाचार्या का यह कदम एक अतूल्य उपहार है।

लक्ष्मीबाई कॉलेज की यह प्रथम ई मैगजीन है और इसमें कुछ सेवानिवृत्त प्रवक्ता के संस्मरण एवं कविताएँ हैं, जो उनके कॉलेज से लगाव को दर्शाते हैं। कुछ कॉलेजों ने छात्रों के ईमैगजीन निकालने पर प्रतिबन्ध लगा दिया है, वहीं हम चाहते हैं कि आज के व्यस्ततम जीवन में ई मैगजीन के द्वारा हमारी छात्राएँ अपनी भावनाओं की अभिव्यक्ति के लिए स्वतंत्र हों। 'कलम' के द्वारा हम अपनी बातें शीघ्र गति से दूसरे के समक्ष रख सकते हैं। इससे छात्राओं की सृजनात्मक क्षमता का विकास होगा तथा वे अपनी रचनात्मकता को पहचान सकेंगी। इनसे मेरा अनुरोध है कि ये ऐसी रचनाएँ प्रकाशित करने पर जोर दें, जो सार्वभौमिक हों। अपनी निजी बातें भी करते हुए यह प्रयास करें कि उन रचनाओं से सार्वभौमिकता प्रतिबिम्बित हों, जिससे समाज और राष्ट्र का हित हो। महिलाएँ प्रशस्त पथ पर अग्रसर हों। समाज और राष्ट्र में जो बुराइयाँ घर कर गई हैं उनका विनाश हो। साहित्य को समाज का दर्पण कहा गया है, इसलिए 'सहितस्य भावं साहित्यम्' की श्रृंखला को आगे बढ़ाते हुए ऐसी रचनाएँ हों, जिसे पढ़कर पाठकों में स्थानापन्न महसूस हो क्योंकि साहित्य का रस और सौन्दर्य इसी पर निर्भर करता है।

जिसकी मुठ्ठी में होगा जल  
जल उसका होगा कल  
आज बहा है इतना पानी  
रो रही है, पृथ्वीरानी



## स्मृतियों का मोरपंख

स्मृति कोश अथाह सागर।

स्मृति लहरियाँ अविस्मरणीय।

इसमें जितनी डुबकियाँ लगाती हूँ, उतने ही श्वेतधवल पारदर्शी स्मृतियों के माणिक्यों से झोली भर जाती है। मेघों से बरसती अमृत बूँदों के बीच कॉलेज की प्रथम दिवस की स्मृति हो या वाद-विवाद परिषद में कार्य करने की सुखद आनन्दानुभूति हो या एन. एस. एस. का कोई प्रोग्राम हो, हर पल की स्मृतियाँ मेरी अनमोल धरोहर हैं। यह स्मृतियाँ मेरी कार्यस्थली की हैं। मेरी कर्मभूमि की है और हों भी क्यों नहीं। इसकी सीमाओं के बाहर मैं पिता की पुत्री, पति की पत्नी और अपने बच्चों की माँ हूँ। मेरी इस कर्मभूमि ने मुझे मेरे रूप में पहचान दी है। वीणा के रूप में स्थापित हुई हूँ। यह मेरी आराध्यस्थली है। यह वीणा संगीत के सुरताल से कभी नाता नहीं जोड़ पाई परन्तु इस कर्मस्थली ने मेरे मन और आत्मा को कर्म वीणा के सुरताल और लय की अद्भुत शक्तियों के साथ नवाज़ा। मुझे जो भी कार्य सौंपा गया उसे मैंने पूरी निष्ठा और समर्पण से किया। हर पल सोचती हूँ कि इसका ऋण कैसे चुका पाऊँगी? जितना भी करूँ कम है। स्मृति सागर में स्मृतियों की लहरियों के बीच वह दिन कभी नहीं भूलता जब मैं स्टाफ रूम में पहुंची। किसी ने मेरा नाम एसोसिएशन की सचिव के रूप में लिया, जब तक मैं अपनी प्रतिक्रिया व्यक्त करूँ तब तक मैं सचिव के रूप में स्थापित हो चुकी थी। मुझे नहीं पता था कि यह पृष्ठभूमि किसलिए बन रही है। तीन वर्ष एक सचिव रही और तीन वर्ष न रहने पर भी मेरे विचार सारे स्टाफ में महत्व पाते रहे। मैं नहीं जानती थी कि वह पृष्ठभूमि क्यों बन रही है। एक दिन स्टाफ एसोसिएशन ने मुझे आदेश देते हुए कहा कि अपनी टीम बनाकर एसोसिएशन का कार्यभार संभाल लीजिए। टीम क्या थी एक त्रिवेणी थी। प्रयागराज था, जल की तरह निर्मल, पावन, निश्छल अनुजा पूर्णिमा तलवार बनी सेक्रेटरी जिसका एक ही शब्द सब कुछ कह देता है हुकुम करो। सच में पूर्णिमा का कोई जवाब नहीं।

बात की धनी, विश्वास की चट्टान, कर्मठ, स्वाभिमानि बीना गुप्ता बनी कोषाध्यक्ष जिसके जीवन का एक ही फ़लसफ़ा है..... दोस्तों को ++ करो दुश्मनों को करो (-) खुशियों को गुणा करो और ग़म को करो डिवाइड.....क्योंकि जीवन आनन्दानुभूति का नाम है। पूर्णिमा और बीना का मेरे प्रति अटूट विश्वास और सौहार्दता निस्संदेह मेरी धरोहर है। हम तीनों के घर की समस्या हमारी थी।

किसी एक का निर्णय सबका होता था। मतभेद और संदेह का तो प्रश्न ही नहीं था। पहला कार्यक्रम हुआ पाँच वरिष्ठ प्राध्यापकों की सेवा निवृत्ति का। बहुत उत्साह और मनोयोग से कार्यक्रम की रूपरेखा बनी और हमसब जा पहुँचे अभिताभ बैंकवेट। सुबह घर में चलते समय पैर फिसला, चोट तो इतनी कि कोई और दिन होता तब कॉलेज आ ही नहीं सकती थीं। डॉक्टर से परामर्श कर जब कॉलेज पहुँची। सम्पूर्ण स्टाफ का एक नया रूप देखकर लगा कि गिरना, घायल होना भी सार्थक हो गया। पूर्णिमा, बीना के चेहरे पर कोई शिकन नहीं। सारे स्टाफ में एक होड़ सी देखने को मिली। अपने प्रति करुणा, संवेदना और विश्वास देखकर मैंने ठान लिया कि स्टाफ के लिए कुछ ऐसा करना होगा, जो सदैव के लिए एक अच्छी परम्परा हो। जिसे सभी स्मरण रखें। बहुत आनन्द और उल्लास के साथ समारोह सम्पन्न हुआ।

इसी समारोह में डा.निशा सिंह ने यक्ष.प्रश्न हम सब के समक्ष रखा। प्रश्न क्या था, एक चुनौती थी, कि कॉलेज हमें क्या देता है। एक फ़ेयरवेल तक तो आयोजित नहीं करता। हमारी टीम ने इसे चुनौती के रूप में लिया और जा पहुँची प्राचार्य के कक्ष में। स्नेह माधुर्य और सम्मान के साथ करुणा मैडम के समक्ष प्रस्ताव रखा कि आज से जब भी कोई प्राध्यापिका रिटायर होंगी तो स्टाफ काउंसिल से। क्या नियम है, क्यों ऐसा चाहते हैं—जैसे प्रश्नों के बीच हम 'यस' के साथ लौटे। हिन्दी विभाग की रजनी को यह सौभाग्य सर्व प्रथम मिला। उस बीज-प्रश्न का यह उत्तर एक पड़ाव भर था।

अब दूसरी यात्रा शुरू हुई कि कालेज कोई प्रतीकात्मक उपहार भी दे। हमारा शिव संकल्प जब सत्य और सौन्दर्य को साथ ले जा पहुँचा प्रबन्ध समिति के द्वार पर। विनम्रतापूर्वक प्रस्ताव पर प्रबन्ध समिति की कोई प्रतिक्रिया नहीं आई, न निराश थे न हताशा। संकल्प की दृढता और विनम्रता ही हमारी शक्ति थी इसलिए दूसरी बार प्रस्ताव भेजा, पर कोई बात नहीं बनी। लेकिन

तीसरी बार संक्षिप्त सा उत्तर मिला कि विचार होगा। विनम्रता का दामन हमने नहीं छोड़ा और सौजन्यता का दामन प्रबन्ध समिति ने। न धरना, न प्रदर्शन, मात्र चिन्तन और वार्तालाप। हमारा उद्देश्य था उस बीजवाक्य को लहलहाती हुई फसल के रूप में देखना। इसीलिए कॉलेज के सभी कार्य यथावत चलते रहे। सुझाव आया कि जो लोग अब सेवानिवृत्त होंगे, उनके लिए कुछ हो सकता है। लेकिन हमारे आग्रह में ऐसी कशिश थी कि प्रबन्ध समिति ने सिद्धांत रूप में मान लिया कि यह तो होगा ही। उन्होंने सभी रिटायर सदस्यों के लिए स्वीकार कर हमारे संकल्प को श्रेय-प्रेय से सम्पन्न कर दिया। प्रश्न पैसे का भी था और सौ के लगभग सदस्य रिटायर भी हो चुके थे और कुछ होने वाले थे। प्रबन्ध समिति ने हमारे समक्ष हजार बारह सौ, पन्द्रह सौ और अट्ठाइस सौ रूपये का प्रस्ताव रखा साथ ही कार्यक्रम की रूपरेखा बनाकर लाने को कहा गया। संकेत भी दिया कि समारोह का आयोजन भी वहीं करेंगे। समारोह का नाम दिया गया 'अभिनन्दन समारोह'। हम प्रसन्न, हमारे साथी प्रसन्न। फिर शुरू हुई तैयारी उत्सव की। उत्सव क्या था, लगता था बेटे की शादी है। खान पान से लेकर उपहारों तक कॉलेज की साज सज्जा से लेकर स्टेज तक सरस्वती वन्दना से लेकर सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम तक कॉलेज का हर प्राणी अपने-अपने गिलहरी प्रयास से सहयोग में व्यस्त था। लेकिन न अध्यापन कार्य में, न प्रशासनिक कार्य में प्राचार्य को कोई शिकायत थी। हम तीनों के साथ स्टाफ के वरिष्ठ सदस्यों ने रिटायर्ड लोगों के लिए दो-चार पंक्तियों का सुझाव देकर हमारे कार्य को सरल बना दिया। उनके लिए साधुवाद। यह अभिनन्दन समारोह महाविद्यालय के इतिहास में अनुपम और अद्भुत था। कॉलेज के स्वर्ण जयंती वर्ष पर्व में इसे स्मरण करना इसीलिए अनिवार्य है कि यह हमारे लक्ष्मीबाई कॉलेज का मोरपंख है और रहेगा।

डॉ. वीणा गौतम सेवानिवृत्त प्रवक्ता हिन्दी विभाग

## लक्ष्मीबाई महाविद्यालय की स्वर्ण जयंती के अवसर पर कॉलेज की स्मरणीय मीठी यादें

खेल दिवस से कुछ दिन पूर्व कॉलेज में पढ़ते हुए वर्षों पहले खिलाड़ियों के साथ श्रो बाल का मैच आज भी मुझे रोमांचित कर देता है। खिलाड़ियों का शोर, रैफरी का कभी-कभी अध्यापिकाओं का साथ देना, अध्यापिका होने का हवाला देकर खिलाड़ियों को भावुक स्तर पर अच्छा न खेलने को कह कर ब्लैकमेल करना, मुझे आज भी अच्छी तरह याद है। इसके अलावा रस्सा कशी में अधिकतर अध्यापिकाओं का जीतना भी मैं नहीं भूली। खेल दिवस पर छोटी छोटी खुशियाँ प्राप्त करके अध्यापिका खिलाड़ियों का हँसते हँसते लोट पोट होना और इनाम दिखा कर गर्व महसूस करना आज भी भीतर खुशी भर देता है। खिलाड़ियों के साथ नॉक डाऊक, उनकी ओर से दी जाने वाली इज्जत मन को मोह लेती थी और उनके साथ नज़दीकियां और भी बढ़ जाती थी। वाह! वे भी कितने अच्छे दिन थे। इस खेल का आनन्द मैंने वर्षों लिया।

सेवामुक्ति से करीब तीन वर्ष पश्चात् यूनिवर्सिटी के पंजाबी विभाग के एक बुद्धिजीवी का यह कथन बार बार मेरे कानों में आज भी गूँज रहा है कि आज कार्य के क्षेत्र में इतना कुछ अवश्य कर जाना कि सेवामुक्ति के बाद खाली समय में तुम्हारे द्वारा किए कार्यों की यादें तुम्हारे जीवन में सुख का अहसास करवाये। यह कथन बिल्कुल सही है। यह यादें जीवन में एक प्रकार का खजाना है।

जब किसी मनुष्य को अपने मनपंसद क्षेत्र में कार्य करने का अवसर मिले तो उसे अपना कार्य भी अच्छा लगने लग जाता है। वह अपनी योग्यता को अधिक प्रभावशाली ढंग से अपने कार्य में लगा सकता है। संस्था के माहौल का भी इसमें योगदान होता है। लक्ष्मीबाई कॉलेज का माहौल भी योगदान और शखसीयत को निखारने और बढ़ाने में मददगार हुआ। अपने कॉलेज के पंजाबी विभाग के अकादमिक कार्य करने के पश्चात कॉलेज के प्रबन्धकीय ढांचे का काम करने का अवसर

कॉलेज में गिधा टीम तैयार करके कॉलेज में रंगारंग प्रोग्राम में भाग लेने की आजादी और दूसरे महाविद्यालयों में टीम को भेजने का अवसर। कॉलेज ने अंतर युनीवर्सिटी मुकाबले में दो प्रथम स्थान प्राप्त किया। दूसरे महाविद्यालयों में और युनीवर्सिटी के पंजाबी विभाग के कार्यों में विभाग की छूट तथा पंजाबी साहित्य में आई नई पुस्तकों के पढ़ने तथा चर्चा करने की अनुमति मिलना आदि ने ज्ञान बढ़ाने में सहयोग दिया।

मैं उन दिनों को भी नहीं भूली जब गर्मी की छुट्टियों में कॉलेज में प्रथम दर्जे के विद्यार्थियों को पंजाबी विभाग में दाखिल करने के लिए कॉलेज जाना पड़ता था। नौकरी के आरंभ के वर्षों में दाखिले का माहौल बहुत खुशनुमा होता था। तब इतनी भाग दौड़ नहीं थी। इसलिए कार्य के साथ साथ आपस में बातचीत, हँसने के अवसर भी मिलते थे। दाखिले के समय के बाद अपने-अपने घर से लेकर आए खाने को दाखिला करने के दौरान सभी सदस्य मिल जुल बैठकर खाते। उसका अलग ही आनन्द था। लेकिन समय ने करवट ली। इस दाखिले की प्रक्रिया में कई तब्दीलियाँ आईं। दाखिले में विद्यार्थियों की गिनती बढ़ गई। उनके साथ माता पिता का आना भी शुरू हो गया। कॉलेज से खाने के लिए सनैक्स मिलना आदि और दाखिले के कार्य बढ़ जाने के कारण बातचीत करने और हँसने हँसाने के मौके कम को गए। परन्तु आपसी सहयोग में कोई कमी नहीं आई।

कॉलेज ने आपसी सहयोग और विश्वास से कार्य काल को यादगार बनाया। लक्ष्मीबाई कॉलेज में तीस वर्षों का कार्यकाल खुशी भरा तथा आनन्दमय रहा।

**डा. जगजीत कौर**

**सेवानिवृत्त प्रवक्ता**

**पंजाबी विभाग**

## वे दिन

एक रिश्ता है अभी बाकी हमारा आपसे

अब उसे कहिए कल्पना या दुआ कह लीजिए।

सन् 1971 में दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय से एम. ए. की परीक्षा प्रथम पोज़ीशन में उत्तीर्ण करने पर विभागाध्यक्ष ने पूछा दो महाविद्यालयों में रिक्त स्थान हैं, एक मिरांडा महाविद्यालय में जो अस्थायी दो वर्ष के लिए है दूसरा लक्ष्मीबाई महाविद्यालय में जो स्थायी है। आप किस में चाहती हैं ? मुझे अपने नाम विजय लक्ष्मी का साम्य आकर्षण तथा स्थायी पद का भविष्य लक्ष्मीबाई महाविद्यालय में दिखाई दिया। सन् 1971 से 2011 तक चालीस वर्षों की लम्बी अवधि मधुर अनुभवों के साथ लक्ष्मीबाई महाविद्यालय में व्यतीत हुई। यह जीवन का अमूल्य सुखद समय रहा है। उन दिनों की यादें समय समय पर साकार हो उठती हैं।

तुमसे बिछड़े तो सच मानो गुमसुम मन का फूल रहा

और निरन्तर रहे भटकते हरे भरे बाग़ानों में।

आते रहे वो याद भुलाने के बाद भी

जलता रहा चिराग बुझाने के बाद भी।

होती है रोज सुबह और ढलती है शाम यूँ ही

लगता है फिर भी जैसे ये समाँ बदल गया है।

बीते दिनों की यादें मीठी कसक बन कर रह जाती हैं। अनुशासन में बँधा जीवन अध्यापन का रुचिकर उत्साह आनंद के साथ निरंतर गतिशील रहा। छात्राओं के परीक्षा परिणाम देखकर तथा

उनके मुख से यह सुनकर आपने काव्य शास्त्र जैसा शुष्क और क्लिष्ट विषय हमें बहुत रुचिकर और आसान बनाकर पढाया। तब अपनी खुशी असीमित हो जाती थी। गतवर्ष एक समारोह में एक युवती ने आकर पैर छुए और कहा आपने पहचाना नहीं। उसने अपना परिचय दिया—“ मैं सत्यवती महाविद्यालय में प्राध्यापिका हूँ। आपका पढाया काव्य शास्त्र, वर्तनी और मात्राओं का ज्ञान मेरा मार्गदर्शन करता रहता है” सुनकर बहुत खुशी हुई। अपने अध्यापन की सार्थकता का आभास हुआ।

विजय लक्ष्मी चौधरी

सेवानिवृत्त प्रवक्ता

हिन्दी विभाग



## डॉ. सुश्री सी के कौसुकुटी

आर्मी के जनरल जैसा उनका अनुशासन और प्रशासन

समय की पाबंदी और हर एक पल का सम्मान

अपने अपने काम के प्रति पूरी ईमानदारी

दिल ओर दिमाग की खुली खिड़किया।

मतभेदों में पनपता सकरात्मक औदार्य

अपना कॉलेज अपने सब लोग

अहो! वे दिन भी क्या दिन थे

प्रिंसिपल की स्नेह भरी सर्जक छत्रछाया

भरपूर मेहनत और प्रवीणता के श्रेष्ठ से श्रेष्ठ आदर्श

हर काम को स्वयं आगे बढ़कर करने का उत्साह

सुख दुख आपस में बाँटे लेने की सद्भावना

सभी को साथ लेकर चलने का चलन

अपना कॉलेज अपने सब लोग।

अहो! वे दिन भी क्या दिन थे।

बड़ी बड़ी अपेक्षाएँ हों या हो चुनौतियाँ

हाथ से हाथ, विचार से विचार मिलकर  
सुलझा लेने की सामर्थ्य और साहस  
हम सब कुछ कर सकते हैं जैसा अडिग विश्वास  
क्योंकि पीठ पर प्यार और सिर पर था आशीर्वाद का हाथ

अपना कॉलेज अपने सब लोग

अहो! वे दिन भी क्या दिन थे।

पाँच दशक पहले के ये ही थे वे दिन

जब पड़ी नींव अपनेपन की

हम सब एक हैं, हम सब एक साथ हैं

इन्हीं दिनों के संचित एकत्व के बल पर

भीषण तूफानों, भयानक झंझावातों में भी

लक्ष्मीबाई का घोड़ा सरपट दौड़ता रहा

दौड़ रहा है, दौड़ता ही रहेगा।

अपना कॉलेज अपने सब लोग

वे दिन भी क्या दिन थे।

एकत्व के उन दिनों को मेरा शत शत प्रणाम।

उस सर्वप्रेरक शक्ति को मेरा शत शत प्रणाम।

सर्वप्रिय अग्रजा एवं निर्देशिका को मेरा शत शत प्रणाम।

मेरे मैं में मिलें मेरे सभी अपनों को शत शत प्रणाम।

शत शत प्रणाम।

शत शत प्रणाम।

अहो वे दिन भी क्या दिन थे।

अपना कॉलेज अपने सब लोग।

21 जुलाई 1985 कॉलेज का पहला दिन

तिमारपुर में वीमेन्स कॉलेज सुबह के दस बजे

नई नई स्नातकोत्तर एवं पी. एच. डी. की उपाधि प्राप्त

अलग अलग विश्वविद्यालय, अलग अलग व्यक्तित्व वाली

लगभग हमउम्र, अपरिचित, अजनबी 35 युवतियाँ

अधिकांशतः अनुभवविहीन, पर ऊर्जा से भरी पूरी

मिलजुल कर बना रही टाइमटेबल

एक कुर्सी और पैंतीस लोग

आधी शताब्दी बीत गई, आज के कुर्सी प्रधान युग में।

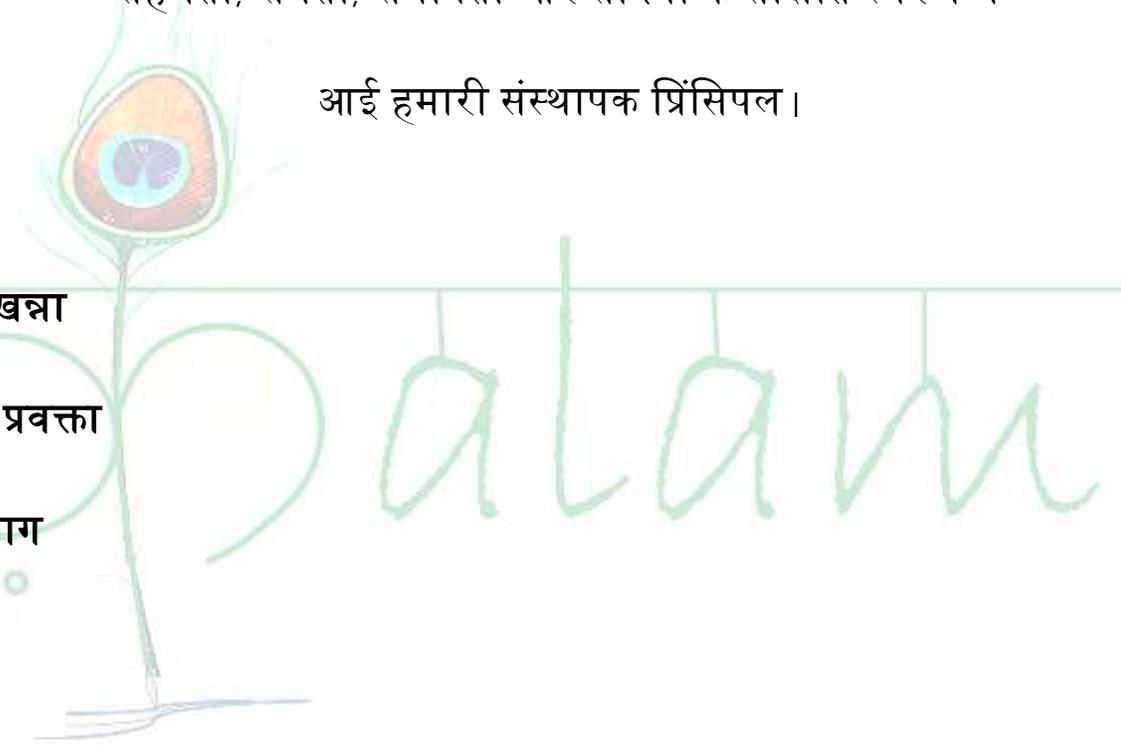
उन नज़ारे की मीठी मिठास  
आज भी मन को मीठा कर जाती है  
अपना कॉलेज अपने सब लोग  
अहो वे दिन भी क्या दिन थे।

केरल की भव्यता और अर्थशास्त्र की गहनता लेकर  
सहजता, समता, समानता और सादगी के साक्षात् स्वरूप में  
आई हमारी संस्थापक प्रिंसिपल।

डॉ. वीणा खन्ना

सेवानिवृत्त प्रवक्ता

हिन्दी विभाग



## स्मृतियाँ मेरे जीवन की अनमोल मधुर स्मृतियाँ

वर्ष 2015 यह वर्ष मेरे लिए मेरे अधिकांश सहयोगियों के लिए और उन सहस्रों छात्राओं के लिए अत्यन्त महत्वपूर्ण है, जिन्होंने लक्ष्मीबाई महाविद्यालय को कभी घुटनों के बल चलते हुए एक नन्हें शिशु के रूप में देखा था और अब वही एक पूर्ण पुरुष के रूप में गर्व से सिर ऊँचा उठाए अपनी स्वर्ण जयन्ती मना रहा है। एक समय था जब तिमारपुर को एक छोटी सी स्कूली इमारत में यह महाविद्यालय उन छात्राओं के लिए खोला गया था, जिनके अंक इतने कम थे, कि दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय में अन्य महाविद्यालय उन्हें स्वीकार करने के लिए तैयार नहीं थे। लक्ष्मीबाई महाविद्यालय ने न केवल उन छात्राओं को स्वीकार किया बल्कि अपनी लगन परिश्रम और निष्ठा के बल पर उनका सर्वांगीण विकास भी किया।

मुझे याद है कि जब हम इस महाविद्यालय से जुड़े तो हमारे समक्ष बहुत सी चुनौतियाँ थी। अधिकांश प्राध्यापिकाएँ युवा, अनुभवहीन, किन्तु उत्साह से भरी हुई थी। पहली चुनौती थी उन कम अंको वाली छात्राओं को अपने अध्यापन के बल पर अन्य महाविद्यालयों के स्तर तक लाना और उनका सर्वांगीण विकास करना। उनके हीनभावों को मिटाकर उनके व्यक्तित्व को आत्मविश्वास एवं आत्मगौरव की ज्योति से प्रदीप्त करना। इस कठिन कार्य को करने के लिए हम सब कटिबद्ध थे। उन छात्राओं को स्कूली बच्चों की तरह पढ़ाने के साथ साथ विभिन्न कार्यक्रमों से जोड़ने का प्रयत्न शुरू हुआ। मंच पर खड़े होकर दो वाक्य बोलना, कविता का सस्वर पाठ करना तथा रंगमंच पर अभिनय करने का प्रशिक्षण उन्हें दिया जाने लगा। आपको यह जानकर आश्चर्य होगा कि उन प्रारंभिक वर्षों में एक साधारण से महाविद्यालय में हम बड़ी बड़ी हस्तियों को निमंत्रित करने में सफल रहे। जहाँ एक ओर महान साहित्यकार श्री विष्णुप्रभाकर हमारे यहाँ आए, चर्चित पत्रकार श्री खुशवन्त सिंह हमारे यहाँ आए तो कई प्रसिद्ध समाज सेवक और गांधी

जयंती पर गांधी भक्तों ने हमारी छात्राओं को सुन्दर विचारों से परिचित कराया। यही नहीं राजनीतिज्ञों ने भी हमारे निमंत्रण स्वीकार किए जिनमें दिल्ली के मुख्यमंत्री और तत्कालीन राष्ट्रपति श्री शंकरदयाल शर्मा की विदुषी पत्नी का आना हमें अत्यन्त गौरवन्वित कर गया।

लक्ष्मीबाई महाविद्यालय से जुड़ने की सबसे बड़ी उपलब्धि यह रही कि इसके साथ साथ हम प्राध्यापिकाओं का भी विकास हुआ। हम सब युवा प्राध्यापिकाएँ एक ऐसी प्रबंधकुशल परिपक्व वयोवृद्ध प्रिंसिपल के हाथों में सौंप दी गई, जिन्होंने किसी कुशल कुम्हार की तरह एक हाथ से सहारा और दूसरे से चोट देते हुए हमें सुगढ़ मूर्तियों के रूप में गढ़ा। उन्होंने हमें समय की पाबन्दी और अनुशासन में रहने की ऐसी शिक्षा दी कि हम कभी कक्षा में या किसी गोष्ठी में विलम्ब से जाने की सोच भी नहीं सकते थे। बस में बैठे हुए यदि हमें यह लगता कि विलम्ब हो रहा है तो बीच रास्ते में उतरकर ऑटो पकड़ते और कॉलेज के प्रांगण में आते आते यदि घंटी सुनाई दे जाती तो दौड़ने लगते और हाँफते पसीना पोंछते कक्षा में जा पहुँचते। यदि कभी अवकाश लेने की जरूरत आ पड़ती तो दस बार सोचते क्योंकि बाकायदा अवकाश लेने पर भी अगले दिन प्राचार्य महोदय के समक्ष अपराधी बनकर खड़ा होना पड़ता। इस प्रकार उनके कठोर प्रशासन और मार्गदर्शन ने हमारे अपरिपक्व व्यक्तित्व को निखारा, सँवारा और हम परिश्रमी, कर्मठ, कर्तव्यशील व्यक्ति बन पाए।

आज हम जो कुछ हैं, उसके लिए हम महाविद्यालय के ऋणी हैं। यही आकर हमने अपने भीतर छिपी शक्तियों और कमियों को समझा। हमारे व्यक्तित्व का क्रमशः विकास हुआ। अध्यापन कार्य के साथ साथ प्रबन्ध कौशल की विद्या भी सीखी यही कारण है कि वरीयता के आधार पर जब हमें प्राचार्य पद सँभालना पड़ा तो हम उसमें भी सफल रहे।

लक्ष्मीबाई महाविद्यालय मेरी कर्मभूमि तो रही ही, आनन्द भूमि भी थी। यदि मैं यह कहूँ तो अत्युक्ति न होगी। यहाँ का वातावरण इतना आत्मीय, स्नेहिल एवं सौजन्य पूर्ण था कि ईर्ष्या द्वेष के लिए कोई स्थान ही नहीं था। जो नए लोग जुड़ते थे वे अपने से बड़ों का आदर करते थे उनसे सीखते और उनके मार्गदर्शन में काम करते थे। यहाँ इतना मान सम्मान एवं स्नेह मिला है कि आज भी उसकी स्मृति मात्र से मन गद गद हो जाता है। अनेकानेक सुखद स्मृतियाँ इसके साथ जुड़ी हुई हैं इसीलिए जब कभी यह हाथ हिलाकर बुलाता है हम सिर के बल चल कर आते हैं और ईश्वर से यही प्रार्थना करते हैं कि यह महाविद्यालय निरन्तर उन्नति करे और नई ऊँचाइयाँ छुए।

डॉ. सरोज त्यागी

सेवानिवृत्त प्रवक्ता

हिन्दी विभाग



लक्ष्मीबाई कॉलिज केवल मेरी कर्मभूमि नहीं है वरन् मेरी ऐसी विकास स्थली भी है जहाँ प्रतिदिन कुछ सीखने और अपने को सँवारने का अवसर मिलता रहा है। जीवन का प्रत्येक दिन एक पाठशाला है और हम तो सदैव पाठशाला में ही रहें हैं। कुछ सिखाया तो बहुत कुछ सीखा भी है।

आज जो मैं हूँ अपने पूरे मन बुद्धि और अन्तःकरण के साथ उसमें लक्ष्मीबाई कॉलिज का महत्वपूर्ण योगदान है। जीवन की उस दौड़ धूप में आगे बढ़ने और सँभलने का साहस बहुत से स्नेहशील विद्यार्थियों सुहृद मित्रों ने दिया था। जीवन को परिपक्वता देने का श्रेय सभी को है। वे अनेक छात्राएँ जो मेरे पढ़ाएँ पाठ के अतिरिक्त मेरी विभिन्न रचियों का लेखा जोखा रखतीं थीं और न जाने कहाँ से मेरा जन्मदिन पता कर कक्षा के बाद उसे मनाने की पूरी योजना भी बना लेतीं थीं और कई अंतरंग मित्र जो समय समय पर जीवन नैया के पतवार बने, सबके प्रति मैं कृतज्ञ हूँ।

जीवन में उँगली पकड़कर चलाने वाले हाथ ही सब कुछ नहीं सिखाते वरन् चलते चलते अड़गी लगाकर गिराने वाले लोग भी बहुत कुछ सिखाते हैं। सच तो यह है कि आगे बढ़ने का साहस वही देते हैं। कभी यह अपने ही आंतरिक संघर्षों को झेलने का साहस देते हैं, तो कभी बाहरी विरोधी शक्तियों में संतुलन बनाए रखने की प्रेरणा बनते हैं।

संभवतः 1991 या 1992 कॉलिज का वार्षिक दिवस रहा होगा, जब मैं उपप्रधानाचार्या के पद पर थी। अन्य आवश्यक कार्यों के साथ साथ सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम के उदघोषक संयोजक का दायित्व भी मुझ पर था। यही नहीं एक दिन पहले एक अनचाहा मेहमान भी पधार गया था और वह था दाँत का दर्द। डॉक्टर के पास जाने का समय ही नहीं था। पेनकिलर्स खाकर उत्सव मनाने का संकल्प ले लिया गया था। पर रात को मेरी

दंत पीढा के साक्षी परिवार के सभी लोग सुबह मेरे कॉलिज जाने के विरोध में खड़े थे। उधर अपनी हालत भी पर्याप्त दयनीय थी। मुह एक ओर से टेढ़ा लग रहा था। दर्द कान और सिर तक पहुँच गया था। उस पर 20 किलोमीटर स्वयं गाड़ी चलाकर जाना था और रास्ते में पेनकिलर्स भी खरीदने थे। पर कोई विकल्प न था। सो चेहरे पर साहस, मुस्कान और प्रसन्नता का मुखौटा लगाकर चल पड़े। प्रातः 8.30 का समय रहा होगा, कोई कैमिस्ट की शॉप खुली नहीं मिल रही थी। कॉलेज के निकट ही एक सज्जन अपनी दुकान खोल रहे थे, पर लाख अनुनय विनय करने पर भी वह अपनी पूजा आदि किए बिना मेरे अस्तित्व को स्वीकार करने को तैयार नहीं थे। विवश भाव से दर्द और देरी दोनों को झेलकर सफल हुई। अन्ततः कॉलेज के मंच और उत्सवपूर्ण वातावरण ने मेरे रात और प्रातः के तनाव और पीड़ा को बिलकुल विस्मृत करा दिया।

ऐसा मानसिक तनाव और व्यक्तिगत संघर्ष सभी कामकाजी महिलाओं को झेलना ही पड़ता है। कभी परिवार के सदस्यों अथवा बच्चों की विभिन्न आवश्यकताओं के कारण भी कठिन परिस्थितियाँ उत्पन्न हो जाती हैं, पर वे सभी कर्तव्यनिष्ठा दृढ़ता और सही निर्णय लेने की क्षमता प्रदान करती हैं।

संघर्ष सदा अपने से ही नहीं होता, बाह्य परिस्थितियों और व्यक्तियों के विरोध को भी संतुलित करना चुनौतीपूर्ण होता है।

यह घटना लगभग 1980-82 के समय की होगी। दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय में कर्मचारियों और प्रशासन के बीच के संघर्ष का इतिहास बहुत पुराना है। जो आज भी है और सदैव रहेगा भी। हर संघर्ष के मूल में स्वार्थों का टकराव रहता है। ऐसा ही तब भी था। कॉलेज में परीक्षाएँ हो रहीं थीं और उनको सुचारु रूप से चलाने का दायित्व मेरा था। तभी

विश्वविद्यालय में कर्मचारियों की एक दिन की हड़ताल की घोषणा हुई। यह संघर्ष कॉलेज का नहीं था, इसलिए हमारे व कर्मचारियों के बीच भरपूर सहयोग का वातावरण था। पहले दिन की शाम को ही कमरों की सफाई हो गई, कक्षा में डेस्कों पर रोल नम्बर डाल दिए गए, पानी के घड़े भरकर रख दिए गए आदि आदि। परीक्षा सहायकों का कार्यभार शिक्षकों को सौंप दिया गया और कुछ दैनिक वेतन पर काम करने वालों की सहायता से परीक्षा सुचारु ढंग से होगी इस आश्वासन के साथ अगले दिन की सुबह हुई।

परन्तु परीक्षा भवन में प्रवेश करते ही विपर्यय और विरोधभास का तीखा अनुभव होने लगा। परीक्षा के कमरों के हालात विचित्र थे। डेस्कों पर से रोल नम्बर मिटा दिए गए थे। घड़ों का पानी कमरों में उड़ेल दिया गया था। सचमुच हाथों के तोते उड़ गए थे। परीक्षा प्रारम्भ होने में केवल 25.30 मिनट का समय था और विद्यार्थियों की भीड़, उनका शोर मन बुद्धि को अस्थिर किए दे रहा था। पर मन में पक्का निश्चय था कि परीक्षा तो समय पर प्रारम्भ करानी ही है और इसका अनुमोदन मेरे सभी साथी भी कर रहे थे। बस त्वरित गति से कमरों का सीटिंग प्लान लेकर सब स्वयं रोल नम्बर लिख रहे थे या छात्राओं को उनकी निर्धारित जगह पर बैठने का निर्देश दे रहे थे। पीने के पानी का इंतज़ाम कुछ समय के लिए टल सकता था, सो सभी के प्रयत्नों से परीक्षा समय पर शुरू हो गई।

जब परीक्षा सत्र समाप्त हुआ तो बड़ी उपलब्धि का अनुभव हो रहा था। पर सबसे बड़ा आश्चर्य तो अभी शेष था। अचानक कुछ कर्मचारी मेरे पास आए और बोले—“ मैडम! आपने क्यों इतनी मेहनत की, अगर परीक्षा थोड़ी देर से शुरू होती तो आपका क्या

जाता। आपने तो हमारी सारी योजना पर पानी फेर दिया। मैं आश्चर्यचकित सी उनकी बात समझने की चेष्टा करती रही। सच कह रहे थे वे भी, क्योंकि अगले दिन के विश्वविद्यालय समाचारों में उन सब कॉलेजों के नाम थे, जिनमें कर्मचारियों की हड़ताल के कारण परीक्षा समय पर शुरू नहीं हो सकी थी और लक्ष्मीबाई कॉलेज का नाम उनमें नहीं था। आज भी सोचकर हँसी आती है कि एक ही प्रयत्न किसी के लिए फायदेमंद और दूसरे के लिए नुकसानदेह कैसे बन जाता है।

जीवन की विविधता तब भी आश्चर्य चकित करती थी और आज भी करती है। अपने मूल से हम तब भी भटके हुए थे और आज भी उसे ही खोज रहे हैं। परन्तु आज समझ में आता है, कि जो दिखता है, वह सत्य नहीं है, वरन जो नहीं दिखता वही सत्य है।

डॉ. सुधा गोरावारा

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